

REMARKS

In this Amendment, claims 2 and 19-21 are cancelled. Claims 1, 6 and 10 are amended. Claims 22-29 are added.

This leaves claims 1, 3-18 and 22-29 currently pending. Of these, claims 1 and 3-18 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) over Hourvitz. This rejection should be withdrawn in view of the following remarks.

Independent Claim 1

Claim 1 is amended to include the limitations of cancelled claim 2. Claim 1 thus recites a computer medium that has, for each pixel of an image, a red data field, a green data field and a blue data field.

Claim 1 includes a limitation that each of the three data fields stores color pixel data when the image is opaque, but stores **both** color pixel data **and** transparency data when the image is transparent. This limitation is not suggested by the cited reference to Hourvitz, even in the passages¹ cited against claim 1. These passages of Hourvitz instead describe how the color data and transparency data are mathematically processed to yield a composite image, without addressing how they are stored, and especially without disclosing the storage technique of the subject limitation. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable over the cited art.

Independent Claims 6 and 10

Claims 6 and 10 are amended to clarify that when the pixel is transparent, its transparency value is stored in data bits that were previously used to store the pixel's color value when the pixel was opaque. This limitation is not suggested by the cited reference to Hourvitz, even in the passages² cited against claims 6 and 10. As explained above, these passages of Hourvitz describe how the color value and transparency value are mathematically processed, without addressing how they are stored, and especially without disclosing the storage technique of the subject limitation.. Therefore, claims 6 and 10 are patentable over the cited art.

¹ Fig. 3; abstract; col. 1, lines 5-25; col. 3, lines 27-35; col. 6, lines 59-68; and col. 7, lines 1-30

² Fig. 3; abstract; col. 1, lines 5-25; col. 3, lines 10-20

Independent Claim 13

Claim 13 recites a data field for a pixel. The data field stores color data when the image is opaque, and stores **both** color data **and** transparency data when the image is transparent. This limitation is not suggested by Hourvitz, even in the passages cited against claim 13. As explained above, these passages of Hourvitz describe how the color data and transparency data are mathematically processed, without addressing how they are stored. Therefore, claim 13 is patentable over the cited art.

New Independent Claim 22

Claim 22 relates to a set of bits for storing data of a pixel. When the pixel is opaque, all bits in the set are used to store a color level value of the pixel. However, when the pixel is transparent, at least one of the bits, which was previously used to store color level, is instead used to store a transparency level value. This limitation is not suggested by the art of record. Therefore, claim 22 is patentable over the art of record.

New Independent Claims 25, 27 and 28

Claims 25, 27 and 28 all recite **bit-shifting** a pixel's color level value by a number of bit positions indicated by the pixel's transparency value. The claimed "bit-shifting" is also recited in originally-filed claims 4, 7, 8 and 17, but not mentioned in the passages of Hourvitz that were cited against those claims. Therefore, claims 25, 27 and 28 are patentable over the art of record.

Dependent Claims 3-5, 7-9, 11-12, 14-18 and 23

The remaining claims all depend from base claims that are explained above to be patentable over the cited art. The limitations that the dependent claims add to the base claims distinguish them further from this art. Therefore, the dependent claims, also, are patentable.

For example, dependent claims 4, 7, 8 and 17 add, to their respective base claims, "bit shifting" limitations that are not mentioned in the cited art, even in the passages cited against these claims. These added "bit shifting" limitations thus further distinguish claims 4, 7, 8 and 17 from the cited art.

This application is now in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 3/25/08